

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

200 W. Washington, Suite 301  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
(317) 233-0696  
<http://www.in.gov/legislative>

**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 7512**

**BILL NUMBER:** HB 1216

**NOTE PREPARED:** Apr 14, 2011

**BILL AMENDED:** Apr 14, 2011

**SUBJECT:** Public Works Projects.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Rep. Davis

**FIRST SPONSOR:** Sen. Walker

**BILL STATUS:** CR Adopted - 2<sup>nd</sup> House

**FUNDS AFFECTED:** X GENERAL  
X DEDICATED  
X FEDERAL

**IMPACT:** State & Local

**Summary of Legislation:** (Amended) *Common Construction Wage*: The bill raises the threshold for the application of the common construction wage statute from \$150,000 to \$250,000 for contracts awarded after December 31, 2011, and before January 1, 2013, and to \$350,000 for contracts awarded after December 31, 2012.

It provides that a common construction wage committee must consider any written reports with respect to wage scales submitted by the Indiana State Building and Construction Trades Council or the Associated Builders and Contractors of Indiana when making a determination of the common construction wage for a public works project. It also provides that a committee's determination may not address matters other than those specifically described in the statute.

This bill also provides that a public works project may not be artificially divided to avoid application of the common construction wage statute.

*Study Committee Topic*: The bill urges the Legislative Council to assign the topic of the use of an agreement with a labor organization on public works projects covered by a public works statute to a study committee during the 2011 legislative interim.

The bill also makes technical changes.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2011.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** (Revised) *Common Construction Wage*: Increasing the threshold for

the application of the common construction wage statute from \$150,000 to \$250,000 for CY 2012 and \$350,000 for CY 2013 and after would increase the number of projects not subject to the common construction wage.

(Revised) *Study Committee Topic:* Statutory and interim study committees operate on budgets established by the Legislative Council based on committee size. Legislative Council resolutions in the past have established budgets for interim study committees in the amount of \$9,500 per interim for committees with fewer than 16 members and \$16,500 for committees with 16 members or more. If the Legislative Council were to assign these topics to an existing committee and the committee were to have any extra meetings to address these topics, there would be additional expenditures for legislator per diem and travel reimbursement for the committee. Any additional expenditures must be within the committee's budget.

*Background: Common Construction Wage:* A number of studies suggest that wage determination provisions generally increase the labor cost of public works projects from 5% to 16%, and exemption from this wage determination provision might reduce expenditures. The precise impact of the change cannot be determined. Some studies argue for prevailing wage-type systems on the grounds that they lead to greater efficiency, quality, and safety by providing for a stable, well-trained labor force. If such benefits were not realized, school corporations and universities could realize an increase in cost in the long run. Unfortunately, data limitations and questionable methodology limit the conclusiveness of many studies on prevailing wage laws.

*Additional Impact:* If, as some studies have shown, common wage requirements increase the costs of labor to the state, then lower wages due to the exemption may have the following effects:

- State income tax collections could decrease (assuming no increase in employment levels), decreasing consumption and further decreasing sales tax revenue.
- Debt incurred to finance projects could decrease due to lower project costs, reducing bonding or property taxes.
- Funds may be available for other public works projects that would have been required for the project. Similarly, capital expenses could be reduced, making more funding available for noncapital expenses in project budgets.

The 2009-2011 biennium budget bill authorized about \$475.2 M in bonding for state educational institutions, and the 2007-2009 biennium budget bill authorized about \$518.2 M.

School corporation construction projects have varied between \$858 M and \$1.7 B over the last eight years.

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** *Common Construction Wage:* See *Explanation of State Expenditures*.

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** State agencies constructing public works projects.

**Local Agencies Affected:** Local units constructing public works projects.

**Information Sources:**

**Fiscal Analyst:** Chuck Mayfield, 317-232-4825.